

2001-3

DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of March, 2001

DIT:Students Union

Follow this and additional works at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ditsu>

Recommended Citation

Dublin Institute of Technology Students Union; DIT Independent, 1-31 March, 2001. Dublin, DIT, 2001.

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Dublin Institute of Technology at ARROW@TU Dublin. It has been accepted for inclusion in DIT Student Union by an authorized administrator of ARROW@TU Dublin. For more information, please contact yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie, arrow.admin@tudublin.ie, brian.widdis@tudublin.ie.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/)



Free
CDs:
page 15



Indoor Soccer
League:
page 19



Burning Man
Festival:
page 10

Movie
reviews:
page 16

SU election enters final phase

By Dermot Keyes and Jennifer Duggan

A CLEAN and fair campaign has been recommended for all candidates standing in this year's DITSU Elections. The call for an honest and accountable election campaign was made by the Election's Chief Returning Officer as the campaign entered its final week.

Speaking at the issuing of posters and other campaigning equipment at DIT Kevin Street on March 6, Dermot Quain said that the 18 candidates standing for the 11 available positions "should stick to their own campaigns and fight the election on their own strengths and policies. Do not go out on a personal vendetta against anyone in your campaign."

To prevent the confusion which tainted last year's election in relation to the eligibility of candidates elections, it has been stated in the DITSU Election

Regulations that only "candidates who are deemed fully registered students as defined by the Institute shall be entitled to run for election. Therefore any students repeating externally are not eligible to run for election."

This year there are three contestants running for the position of overall president: Marguerite Fitzpatrick, Ray Nangle and Cathy Power. Both Fitzpatrick and Power have been site presidents in DIT this year (at Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street respectively).

Nangle has enjoyed a high profile position in DIT as head of the Karting Club, which recently won the All-Ireland title in Galway.

For a number of DITSU Executive positions, there is only one nominee and are therefore running an uncontested election campaign which is the case for both the Presidential and Deputy President positions in Aungier Street, where Karl



1998/99 Ross O'Daly,

Bonar and Noel Renehan are running unopposed. It has been stressed by a number of persons associated with DITSU that the RON (reopen nominations) option is available where students are not happy with the candidates on the ballot paper.

Quain also spoke of a number of incidents during last year's election campaign



1999/00 Sarah McGovern

when "on one site there was a problem with posters of certain candidates being pulled down. "Your nomination be taken off the ballot if this was repeated this year and we will act if any such events take place. There are plenty of security cameras in all of the sites so you have all been warned." Quain said that the Election Supervisory Committee,



2000/01 Vinny Dooley ...

which includes Jarlath Molloy and Ruth Allen amongst others, "is responsible for the conduct of the election."

Those elected, who will be announced after the count at Planet Murphys in Camden Street on Thursday March 15, will be anxious to restore the image of the Union after an indifferent year under the



Who will be next?

short lived tenure of Vinny Dooley. His impending resignation had not yet been confirmed as late as the March meeting of DITSU Council, when it was announced that a letter of resignation from Dooley had yet to be received by the DITSU Executive.

Election special: pages 12,13,14

Karting Club finances under audit

By Jennifer Duggan

IN WHAT is believed to be an unprecedented move, the Sports Committee of DIT has frozen the funds of DIT Karting club, one of the biggest clubs in the Institute.

The club's accounts have also been sent to an auditor and at the time of going to press, have not yet been returned to the sports committee.

Karting Club Chairperson and DITSU Overall Presidential candidate Ray Nangle has dismissed the rumours circulating the college recently regarding any financial wrongdoings or irregularities within the club.

"I know our accounts are

clean and there is nothing wrong with them," he said. However in a recent statement, the Sports Committee said "Ray Nangle and the Karting Club have broken rules and regulations set out by the DIT Sporting Committee."

Due to this fact the Karting Club monies have been frozen while their accounts are under investigation."

When questioned about the circumstances surrounding the freezing of their accounts, Nangle stressed that the accounts have not been audited due to any wrong doing but that it is because of the amount of money they have raised through sponsorship.

"The Sports Committee wanted to see where we got sponsorship money and how we spent it.

"We didn't have our receipts in account form as we didn't think we needed to so the Sports Committee decided to send the accounts to an auditor to ensure that if there is any questions regarding the accounts, that there is accountability."

Declan Gylmn, chairperson of the Sports Committee said the audit was "a private matter between the sport club and the Sports Committee. We reckon they need some professional help and assistance as they have grown so much but there is nothing to be read into this."



Sabbatical Elections

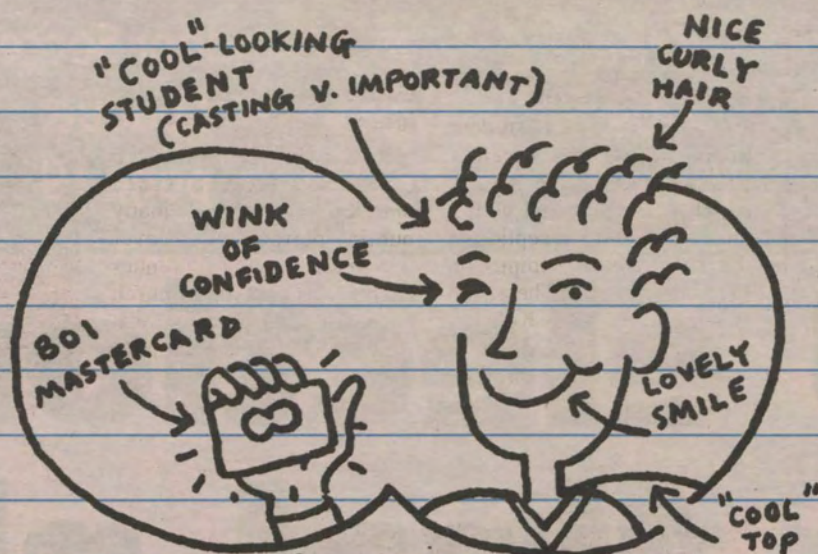


Make your voice heard

Polling on Wednesday, March 14th

The credit card that puts you in control...

Students



for an
EASY-
do-it-yourself

Student Credit Card

What is the Bank of Ireland student Credit Card?

It's a MasterCard available to students who hold a Bank of Ireland Current Account with an average turnover of £100 per month, are aged 18 and over and are attending a third level full-time course. This credit card is designed to help you manage your finances and offer you a more convenient way to pay for goods/services.

What is the student card limit?

The credit limit on the Bank of Ireland Student Credit Card is £250.

Where can you use the card?

At 48,000 locations throughout Ireland and 16 million outlets worldwide. Think of the benefits - you'll also be able to pay for books, reserve cinema/concert tickets and make travel arrangements over the phone.

Is there an annual fee?

There is NO annual fee and you can avail of up to 56 days interest free credit provided that you pay your bill in full by the payment date.

How do I apply?

Contact: Kayona Fagan, Bank of Ireland, Camden Street or phone 475 2277

Mark Browne, Bank of Ireland, 34 College Green or phone 679 3777

Lending criteria and terms and conditions apply.

Bank of Ireland



DITSU Council Briefs

Constitutional Review Group selected

DITSU has selected its provisional membership for its Constitutional Review Group, subject to confirmation by those selected.

Three members of the DITSU Executive, namely Cathy Power, Marguerite Fitzpatrick and Simon Clarke were chosen to sit on the review group, along with Dermot Quain, Ross O'Daly, Jarlath Molloy, DITSU General Manager Maura Cunningham and a solicitor who has yet to be confirmed. The findings of the review will be passed on to the new Executive upon their election. The terms of reference of the Group will be established within the next few weeks.

Resignation letter not yet received

DITSU Councillors were informed that Overall President Vinny Dooley has yet to submit his letter of resignation to the Executive. A number of members spoke of their dissatisfaction at Dooley's failure to submit the letter in the month between the past two DITSU Council meetings, when Dooley had issued a statement in which he signalled he was to resign from the Union's top position. "We have yet to receive the letter from Vinny and we apologise to councillors for not yet having it," said DITSU Cathal Brugha Street President Cathy Power.

Seachtain na Gaeilge plans scaled down

This year's planned Seachtain na Gaeilge in DIT will be scaled down to a 'L-Gaelach' after a vote was taken by DITSU Council at Cathal Brugha Street. DITSU Bolton Street President Marguerite Fitzpatrick explained: "It never came into being as it clashed with drama week and arts and crafts week. But we hope that it will be a big part of DITSU's activities next year. The best approach is to have a day called 'L-Gaelach' and have a huge Irish Ball at the Temple Theatre," though this has yet to be confirmed. "The whole idea has not been dead and buried at all. We would still like to see it go ahead in some form."

Rag Week total not yet established

DITSU Councillors were informed by the Executive at March's meeting that no final figure has yet been established by DITSU following their fundraising efforts during Rag Week. CBS President Cathy Power said that a number of bills had yet to be paid following the week's activities, but she believed that the figure was around £4,000, subject to final confirmation. Some money had yet to be collected, she added, so a final figure could not yet be announced.

The April meeting of DITSU Council has been provisionally scheduled for April 3 at Aungier Street.

President's award for Kevin Street student

By Dermot Keyes

DIT Kevin Street student Rosita Kelly was recently awarded the Gaisce Award, which was celebrated with a cheese and wine reception at the Kevin Street campus on February 21st last. The award was presented to Ms Kelly by President Mary McAleese at a ceremony held at Aras an Uachtarain.

A fourth year optometry student, Rosita has been working for the past three years to attain the Gold Medal award, which was a continuation of her Gaisce work in Loreto College, Mullingar where she had completed both her bronze and silver medal awards.

The Gold Medal was the result of her efforts in several different extra-curricular activities in DIT since she began studies in September 1997.

In her first year, Rosita participated in the Links Programme, which was then known as the 'Homework Club.' Each week she acted as a French tutor to a second level student from Warrenmount Secondary School. The following year saw her become the President of the Gaisce Society in DIT Kevin St. Rosita was responsible for the organisation and publicising if meetings as well as actively encouraging all bronze and silver medal candidates to attend.

The main achievement of her tenure was her writing a

Gasice Constitution for the Institute.

Rosita joined the DIT Choral Society and attended practice and their many public performances over two years, singing in venues such as Christchurch Cathedral and the National Concert Hall, an experience that she described as "invaluable."

As her Venture project, Rosita undertook the European Special Olympic Games, for which she organised a number of her classmates to participate in an Eye Testing Programme which happened during the Games in the Netherlands last May.

With sponsorship obtained from local businesses and with DIT covering the cost of the flights, she acted as the link person in the travelling party between the group and the businesses involved.

The Visual Screening Programme, called 'Opening Eyes' catered for athletes with learning disabilities. Several athletes were provided with goggles and spectacles, which helped them to participate in their chosen sports.

All the Kevin St students greatly enjoyed the experience and Rosita had the particular distinction of presenting a medal to one of the competitors, which was a privilege she will never forget. As a member of the DIT Canoe Club in First and Second Year (when did she



its primary goal is to put 'employee wellness on the agenda of employers.

"As a direct response to the growing trend towards holistic health within the leisure industry and the less leisure time available for

to meet employee needs by activity empowering them to take action as regards their personal wellbeing."

The group is clearly on the pulse of modern Irish life, with pressure and commitment stacked on

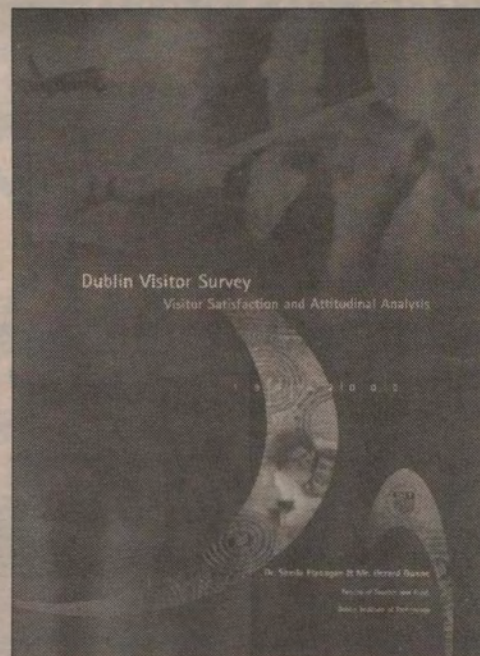
every day. On both the Irish employer and employee. Cathal Brugha Street Students' Union President Cathy Power was delighted with the group's success.

"A big congratulations to all involved," she told the DIT Independent.

Tourism survey: still friendly

Dublin think that and friendly as support by DIT's

sembled by the od at Dublin that 94.8 per of Dublin are ne 85 per cent a safe city "and an easy city to the recently



The report was assembled by the Faculty of Tourism and Food at DIT

Dublin's economy, it is vital that visitor attitude and characteristics are evaluated on an annual basis in order to facilitate planning for future city management and development."

The report's authors, Dr Sheila Flanagan and Gerard Dunne acknowledged the assistance of their colleagues in the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism. Industry partners Dublin Tourism and a number of visitor attractions in the city were also praised for their assistance in the project, including the Guinness Hopstore and the Dublin Tourist Information Centre.

The second year B.Sc. Tourism Marketing students were also thanked for their role in the compilation of the report.

Battle of the Bands gets underway

THE DIT Rock Society's Battle of the Bands will be fought out over three nights in Eamonn Doran's in Temple Bar in the forthcoming weeks.

Two heats will take place on March 12 and March 17, with the final being held on March 27.

With tickets priced at £2.50 per night or £4 for the three nights, it looks like being a value for money trio of evenings as the Institute's finest bands pit their wits against each other.

Four to six contestants will be chosen from the heats to compete in the final.

The final number of finalists has yet to be confirmed.

First prize is a day's rehearsal in a state-of-the-art studio and a half-day mixing a hard copy CD of as many songs as the winners will like.

The runners up will win a half-day's rehearsal and a half-day mixing in a state-of-the-art studio.

For tickets and further details on the Battle of the Bands, contact Leonora Colucci of DIT Rock Society at 087 9406352 or email at lcolucci@maths.dit.ie.

USI Cong

By Dermot Keyes

DUE to the foot-and-mouth scare the Union of Students in Ireland has postponed its Annual Congress which was due to take place from 20th to the 23rd March in Ennis, Co. Clare.

A new date for the event will be announced as soon as possible.

The March meeting of DITSU saw the various USI candidates stake their place for the 26 vital Students Union votes which are at the Student Union's disposal. Mary Immaculate College of Education's John Pereira will get the DITSU votes when Congress goes ahead.

John Paul Swain of UCDSU was selected for the Welfare position with Colm Jordan reselected for the Education post after a successful year in USI.

The only candidate for the Deputy President's position, namely Ross O'Donoghue of MICE, failed to convince DITSU of his credentials for the number two position.

But it was the selection of Gareth Williams for Overall President which proved the highlight of the hustings at the Cathal Brugha Street meeting.

The Dublin Area Office off the challenges of the report on the Union President Eamonn, but plans and USI's Southern is report, along Richard Hammond to surveys and from councillors coming.

If elected, Williams will build a strong relationship with the third level institutes to push for social partnership again in the Government by Dublin as a highly Taoiseach."

As for DIT, Williams Higher Education Authority used to further the acquisition of the Grand "USI's pressure and can be used to get over block of this site," he said.

Meanwhile, student College Dublin have the USI following a ballot on membership union held on March 1

The vote brings USI to over 250,000 - the Union's history.

USI President Julian, Dr. Goldsmith the result sent "a very

Noonan pledges college visit

NEW Fine Gael leader Michael Noonan has pledged to visit all third level institutes as part of his new tenure of the party. Among his pledges made during the leadership election campaign included a new drive to make students more politically aware and illustrate the importance of their vote.

A few short weeks into his leadership and with the Foot and Mouth crisis currently topping the agenda in Leinster House, it is not clear when Deputy Noonan will honour his promise to visit all the major third level institutions.

"He has a lot on at the moment," said a Fine Gael

USI urge students to vote

spokesperson. "He is arranging a lot of meetings with a lot of organisations at the moment."

With the Opposition parties pledged to supporting the USI's stance on the grant issue, DIT's mandated candidate for the overall Presidency of the Union will continue to lobby their cause during the next academic year, which looks set to coincide with the general election campaign.

Gareth Williams told DITSU Council at this month's meeting that student participation and voter administration would be

high on his agenda. "TD's and potential TD's must be reminded of all student's issue in the coming year," said the current USI Dublin Area officer. Fellow Presidential candidates Eamon O'Lionnain and Richard Hammond made similar noises at the same meeting.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in USI in the run up to the general election," said O'Lionnain. "All opposition parties are supporting USI and I'm anxious to see our role in social partnership increased.

"We need to run massive voter registration campaigns and tell students that your vote is your voice and to use your voice," said O'Lionnain.

"We have serious commitments from the opposition parties and what we have to do is hurt politicians. What hurts them is the ballot box."

The forthcoming USI Congress is certain to see the three candidates re-iterate the need to see the third level electorate act through their voting franchise during the next general election, which seems certain to take place in the next 12 to 15 months.



NEW Fine Gael leader Michael Noonan has pledged to visit all third level institutes

S

Cre

School of Art win London award

Dr. Ellen Hazelkorn applauded the efforts of the staff and students of the Certificate in Design (Display) course in the School of Art, Design and Printing following their winning of the International Display Week Design Competition in London recently.

The staff and students who travelled to London were: Rebecca Higgins, Caroline Hayes, Rowena Doyle, Philip Knott (Course Coordinator), Annette Buckley (Lecturer in Display) and Philip Doyle.

This was a major coup for all involved and they are to be congratulated for their efforts in scooping such a major prize.

DIT staff and students who travelled to the International Display Week Design Competition, from which they returned victorious.



What is the Bank of Ireland student Credit Card?

It's a MasterCard available to students who hold a turnover of £100 per month, are aged 18 and over. The credit card is designed to help you manage your financial goods/services.

What is the student card limit?

The credit limit on the Bank of Ireland Student Credit Card is €500.

Where can you use the card?

At 48,000 locations throughout Ireland and 16 million abroad, you can also be able to pay for books, reserve cinema/concert tickets.

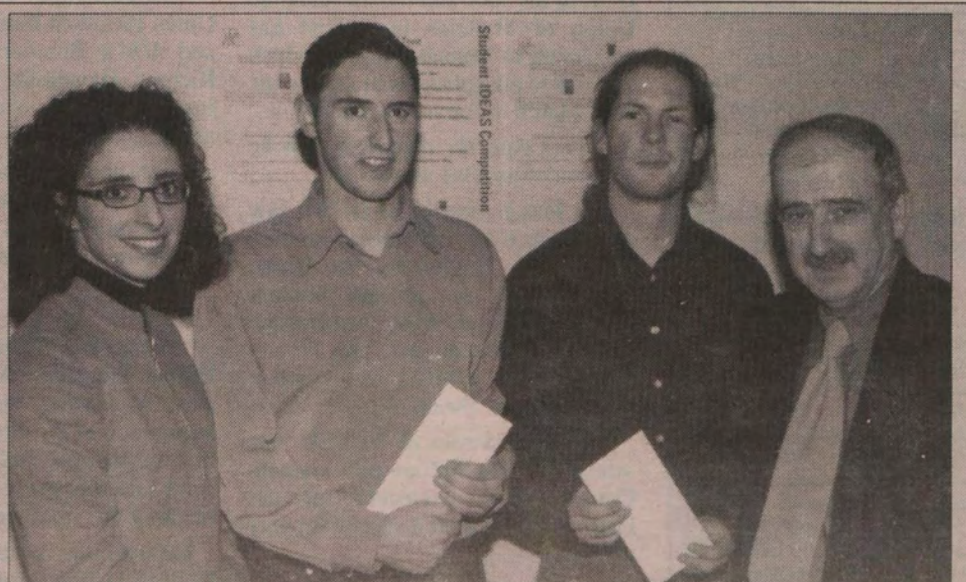
Is there an annual fee?

There is NO annual fee and you can avail of up to 50% discount on bills in full by the payment date.

How do I apply?

Contact: Kayona Fagan, Bank of Ireland, Camden Street, Dublin 1
Mark Browne, Bank of Ireland, 34 College Street, Dublin 2

Bank of Ireland



Student Ideas Winners

Pictured at the awards of the winners of the December 2000 Bolton Trust Student Ideas Competition for the best business ideas among undergraduate students of DIT Kevin Street and Bolton Street are, from left to right:

Ciarra Twomey of AIB (Sponsors of the Prize), Barry Arthurs, a fourth year student in Construction Economics and Management at Bolton Street, Ger Boyle, a first year student of Geomatics at Bolton Street and Phil Murray, Head of the School of Construction, DIT Bolton Street. Mr Murray is the Director of the Bolton Trust and the Coordinator of the competition.

DIT Independent

The value of your vote

THE idea of students voting in an election is anathema to the vast majority of the Irish third-level population, despite the fact that access to the ballot box is the most fundamental right we possess as citizens of a democratic state.

DITSU's election of a new Overall President and the five main site presidencies and deputy positions should prove useful practice for those DIT students who choose to vote this year and will help decide who forms our next government next year.

Students may well have the opportunity to avail of the right to vote again before next year's DITSU Elections. With the Fianna Fail/PD coalition hopeful of seeing out this year and a portion of next year in power, a General Election will top the political agenda in early 2002.

As the nominees for the Presidency of USI all advocated when speaking at this month's DITSU meeting at Cathal Brugha Street, the greatest way of voicing one's political view is to vote whenever the opportunity arises.

For the first time, the opposition parties have sided with the USI and provided a number of assurances in relation to a long-awaited increase in the student grant and the area of social partnership which the national student body is anxious to see fully implemented.

Fine Gael's new leadership, which has been busy trying to side step the Telenor issue in the past ten days, has pledged to visit all third level institutes before the next general election. Michael Noonan is only too aware of the voting power of the student population and presumably it is only a matter of time before the Taoiseach Mr Ahern begins the sweet talking process with the nation's third-level attendants.

The young voters of Ireland who are interested in politics and keen to vote are not the primary target for the two main political parties in the run up to electing the first new Irish administration of the 21st century.

It is those who vent their spleen at the litany of tribunals and revelations of recent times but then do not avail of their constitutional right to vote, who are certain to be targeted.

The next Dail is almost certain to be a coalition given the nature of our election process and when one looks at other systems used around the world, our society is all the better for it.

But were the USI to put in place a well-drilled and effective campaign next year to encourage people to vote, then a body of votes which have not been previously accessed by the major parties, the third-level franchise could prove instrumental in the formation of the next government.

The postal vote can be availed of if persons are unable to get home, but it is safe to assume that most students are not aware of this. Nor are they aware that one has to register to vote, rather than the assumption that one is included in the national register once one turns 18. The new USI team, upon election, must place this issue to the fore come the start of the next academic year.

Your vote is your voice and this DITSU Election can provide the first opportunity for many students to learn the value of the ballot box.

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students' Union.

The DIT Independent
DITSU, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Tel: 496 9742 Fax: 496 9745
email: ditindo@mitsu.ie

Editor: Dermot Keyes
Deputy Editor: Jenni Duggan
News Editor: Jennifer Duggan and Dermot Keyes
Features Editor: Ciara O'Brien
Entertainments Editor: Rebecca Kelly
Sports Editor: Brian Healy
Photographer: Janice Gaffey

The DIT Independent is produced by

foresight communications

And printed by The Meath Chronicle,
Navan, Co Meath

CBS quartet win enterprise competition

By Dermot Keyes

THE Bolton Trust competition, a monthly enterprise venture held within DIT, has been won by a group of four students from the Leisure Management Course in Cathal Brugha Street.

With an entry titled 'PHEW' (Promoting Holistic Employee Wellbeing), the team of Liz Hogan (Marketing Manager), Lisa Keyes (Financial Manager), Lisa Muldowney (Operational Manager) and Orla Waters (Sales Manager), won the £1,000 first prize.

Their effort was penned through their website (www.universityarena.co.uk) and their project "is putting employee wellness on the agenda of employers."

The site claims to offer employers and employees "to learn about nutrition, stress and time management and to undertake voluntary changes in their daily behaviour."

A number of modules dealing with health decisions, taking part in fitness classes and massage and stretching



The March 2001 Bolton Trust winners pictured with their prize. Pictured with the cheque from left to right are: Liz Hogan, Lisa Keyes, Lisa Muldowney and Orla Waters

workouts form the main section of the programme."

Its primary goal is to put "employee wellness on the agenda of employers."

"As a direct response to the growing trend towards holistic health within the leisure industry and the less leisure time available for

employers, PHEW has been developed. "Our main aim is to meet employee needs by activity empowering them to take action as regards their personal wellbeing."

The group is clearly on the pulse of modern Irish life, with pressure and commitment stacked on

commitment forming the daily diet of both the Irish employer and employee. Cathal Brugha Street Students' Union President Cathy Power was delighted with the group's success.

"A big congratulations to all involved," she told the *DIT Independent*.

DIT tourism survey: Irish still friendly

VIRTUALLY all visitors to Dublin think that Irish people are as welcome and friendly as ever according to a recent report by DIT's Faculty of Tourism and Food.

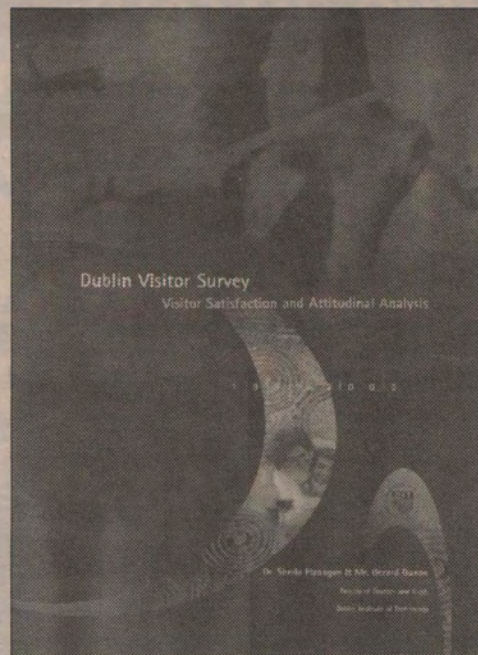
The report, which was assembled by the Faculty of Tourism and Food at Dublin Institute of Technology, states that 94.8 per cent feel "that the people of Dublin are friendly and hospitable." Some 85 per cent surveyed felt that Dublin was a safe city "and a similar proportion feel it is an easy city to get around," according to the recently published report.

This was the first ever formal report on the attitudes of tourists visiting Dublin, but plans are now underway to make this report, along with similar tourist attitude surveys and programmes an annual undertaking.

The report shows that visitor attitudes towards Dublin are mostly positive with the city receiving an average overall rating of eight out of ten. Nine out of ten respondents said that they would visit Dublin again in the future. Most tourists saw Dublin as a highly cultural destination, and over 86 per cent felt that Dublin was a safe city, the report revealed.

Based on over 1000 visitors surveyed throughout Dublin over a 12-month period, the report highlighted a number of areas of concern for the city's tourist sector. Almost a quarter of the surveyed visitors expressed the view that Dublin is a dirty city. One in three stated that it is expensive and one in five felt that it was too overcrowded for sightseeing.

Speaking at the launch of the report, DIT President Dr Brendan Goldsmith, said that the report is the first of its kind, "which will provide concrete and solid information on which we can move forward and build and refine the tourism industry." Referring to the value of the report to the city, Dr. Goldsmith added: "Given the importance of tourism to



The report was assembled by the Faculty of Tourism and Food at DIT

Dublin's economy, it is vital that visitor attitude and characteristics are evaluated on an annual basis in order to facilitate planning for future city management and development."

The report's authors, Dr Sheila Flanagan and Gerard Dunne acknowledged the assistance of their colleagues in the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism. Industry partners Dublin Tourism and a number of visitor attractions in the city were also praised for their assistance in the project, including the Guinness Hopstore and the Dublin Tourist Information Centre.

The second year B.Sc. Tourism Marketing students were also thanked for their role in the compilation of the report.

Battle of the Bands gets underway

THE DIT Rock Society's Battle of the Bands will be fought out over three nights in Eamonn Doran's in Temple Bar in the forthcoming weeks.

Two heats will take place on March 12 and March 17, with the final being held on March 27.

With tickets priced at £2.50 per night or £4 for the three nights, it looks like being a value for money trio of evenings as the Institute's finest bands pit their wits against each other.

Four to six contestants will be chosen from the heats to compete in the final.

The final number of finalists has yet to be confirmed.

First prize is a day's rehearsal in a state-of-the-art studio and a half-day mixing a hard copy CD of as many songs as the winners will like.

The runners up will win a half-day's rehearsal and a half-day mixing in a state-of-the-art studio.

For tickets and further details on the Battle of the Bands, contact Leonora Colucci of DIT Rock Society at 087 9406352 or email lcoucci@maths.dit.ie at

Focus on . . . Anonymous marking

Anonymous exam marking: a better approach?

ONLY three colleges in the Republic of Ireland use anonymous marking to rule out the possibility of bias against students. Only the student's examination number appears on their exam paper, so the examiner does not know who the student is.

DIT introduced the system several years ago, while Trinity College and UCD are in various stages of its implementation and DCU are looking into the system.

This year TCD will see anonymous marking extend to include the three junior undergraduate years, before reaching all departments next year. Its implementation came in response to the student charter, stating that students have the right to be marked anonymously. UCD piloted anonymous marking in 1999, in the first and second year examinations in medicine, and its gradual introduction to all departments is on the cards. The pilot study in the medical faculty included a survey of

Campus.ie examines a system first implemented by DIT, which the rest of the country's third-level institutes are starting to warm to

student attitudes on the issue. It found that the majority believes that without anonymous marking there was a potential for "unfair grading". This opinion was strongest among female and overseas graduates.

UCD's Pilot Study stated from the examiners' point of view that anonymous marking was feasible.

Some 33% of staff surveyed felt that it should be introduced "as soon as it can be" with 38% holding the same view but feeling that introduction was "not urgent." The remaining 29% had no strong opinions either way; and no staff members were against its introduction. One of the merits of the system is that it avoids victimisation of individual students, and also other more

subtle bias, including gender and racial bias, which might creep in, said Frank Bannister with the Department of Statistics and Chairperson of TCD's working group on anonymous marking.

The primary argument against anonymous marking is that it can lead to students getting lower marks, because lecturers tend to give a student the benefit of the doubt if they know them.

The examiner tends to be more detached, so students tend to get slightly lower marks," added Bannister. "If an examiner is marking the script of a student they know and believe is good but having an off day, they're really agonising over what's going on and thinking about the person concerned." This scenario is ruled out by



DIT introduced the system of anonymous marking several years ago

anonymous marking. So just how difficult would it be for a lecturer to get a student's corresponding examination number?

Leaving aside the incidence where a student carelessly leaves their number lying around, there's no way a lecturer could get at examination numbers via a system file, according to TCD's Mr Bannister. DIT Academic Affairs' Tom Duff supports this view, pointing out that only people in the examination office have access to these and they would not disclose them under any circumstances. Assuming that a lecturer wanted to discriminate against a student, the simplest way is to keep samples of the student's handwriting beside the scripts being marked. So the only way to guarantee complete anonymity then is to get students to type exams on PCs.

Students with personal problems will be unable to informally raise the issue with a lecturer they are friendly with, who could alert the committee to the importance of a borderline case being passed, on account of the pressure of personal problems.

To this end, Mr Duff believes the guarantee of total anonymity and equality should take precedence over such cases. Then at the very end stage, when all the names are on the broadsheet, certain candidate's extenuating circumstances may be dealt with. DIT is moving toward a more formal approach to students informing the department if they have extenuating circumstances. "If students have a personal problem and want it taken into account, they can request that the issue not be discussed with the entire examination

board, and the chairman will deal with the sensitive issue accordingly," said Mr Duff.

TCD's Mr Bannister explained that his College's policy differs and in such circumstances a student might be advised to defer taking the exams. "Once anonymous marking is implemented, there is no way lecturers could make allowances for a student being very ill during the year, or if their parents had died before the exam," he pointed out.

TCD is in the process of overcoming a number of issues with implementing the system. A great deal of course work in Trinity is continuous assessment, such as group work, orals and presentations. In various language courses, there may only be three of four students in the class, so the lecturer knows the identity of the student from handwriting and literary style.

Merging continuous assessment and anonymous exams is likely to prove challenging for colleges, especially in the large departments where students are studying various aspects of two courses, in combinations of their choice. Anonymous marking only really impacts on class sizes between 20 and 50. In larger classes, although the lecturer may know the student by name, they usually cannot identify their writing. Human error is difficult to prevent with this system. "It's easy to cut and paste into the exam spread sheet, matching the wrong columns, and getting the wrong set of marks. Making sure the marks are anonymous is not that difficult to achieve - but making sure that an examiner doesn't make a mistake is extremely difficult to

achieve," TCD's Mr Bannister explained. For that reason, anonymous marking requires stringent re-checking procedures.

For several years now, DIT have been using anonymous marking. One of the main selling points of the system, as seen by Tom Duff, is that it upholds the privacy of the student. When exams are posted on the notice board, their examination number is given as opposed to their name. "A student's name is only disclosed to the exam board meeting, when the results are being logged into the examination broadsheet, to facilitate borderline students," he said. DIT review its exam regulations almost on an annual basis, to ensure that they are as effective as possible. They are currently looking into implementing a protective strip system - the sealed flap system - where a student writes his or her name on the exam paper, which cannot be opened until the end of the markings.

Figures from a forthcoming Higher Education Authority report show that female students are far less likely than their male classmates to achieve first class honours degrees. Despite outnumbering men by a ratio of three to two in one university, women account for just a third of the top degrees awarded by that institution.

Gender discrimination should be ruled out at all costs, USI's, Women's Rights Officer, Andrea Leahy insists, and has called for further research in the area. With the increasing threat of litigation, spokespersons in DIT and Trinity College believe all colleges will eventually introduce anonymous marking, given the success that the system has enjoyed to date.

Don't Miss The Bus!

Contact Bus Eireann
The Biggest & The Best for:
Coach Hire
Club Outings
Itinerary Planning
Group Travel on Scheduled
Services free
Expressway Ticket With Every
Coach Hire Booking Received

For Details Contact
Breda 703 2420,
Seamus 703 2574,
Caroline 703 2576
or Fax us at 873 4534



Bus Eireann

email: info@buseireann.ie

Reads
of Nassau Street

UNBEATABLE

Why Pay More at Easons?

MAGAZINES

10% DISCOUNT

OFF ALL MARKED PRICES

BOOKS

20% DISCOUNT

OFF ALL MARKED PRICES

C.D's

10% DISCOUNT

OFF ALL MARKED PRICES

FREE

**SHEET OF
GIFT WRAP**

(VALUE 99P)

WITH EVERY GREETING CARD

**LOWEST STATIONERY & ART
PRICES GUARANTEED**

**LOWEST COPYING PRICES
GUARANTEED**

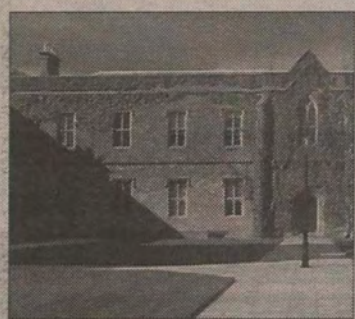
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| ● Colour Copying A5 -A1 | ● Laminating ID -A1 | ● Business Cards |
| ● Colour Prints From Disc | ● Punching | ● T Shirt Printing |
| ● Black & White Copying A5 - A1 | ● Stapling | ● Booklet Making |
| ● Binding | ● Sorting | ● Cutting & Trimming |
| | | ● Folding |

FREE Delivery on all orders in excess of £100. Discounts for quantities.

Credit facilities available for colleges,
schools, & Business.

All Prices subject to availability.

Reads, 5 & 24 Nassau Street, Phone: 679 6011. Fax: 671 1684.



Third level tales

Student website *Campus.ie* looks at some of the stories making the headlines around the country



Youth Pub culture under scrutiny

A national campaign to make people more aware of the dangers of alcohol has been launched to coincide with a forthcoming report which shows that Ireland tops the European league when it comes to young people drinking.

The National Alcohol Awareness Campaign by the Department of Health which carries the slogan "less is more - it's your choice" will involve role models from the worlds of music, fashion, sport and TV providing messages that reinforce how sensible drinking has affected their lives and careers.

It will highlight the importance of cutting down on alcohol, as well as encouraging people to maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Health Minister, Micheal Martin described the campaign as long range, lasting three years, and said the target groups are 12-14-year-olds, 15-17-year-olds and 18-24-year-olds. A new website, www.coolchoices.ie, has also been established.

Mr Martin said that figures from the World Health Organisation next week are startling when it came to hard drinking among young people, and pointed out that in 1999 alcohol related problems cost the country £1.7 billion.

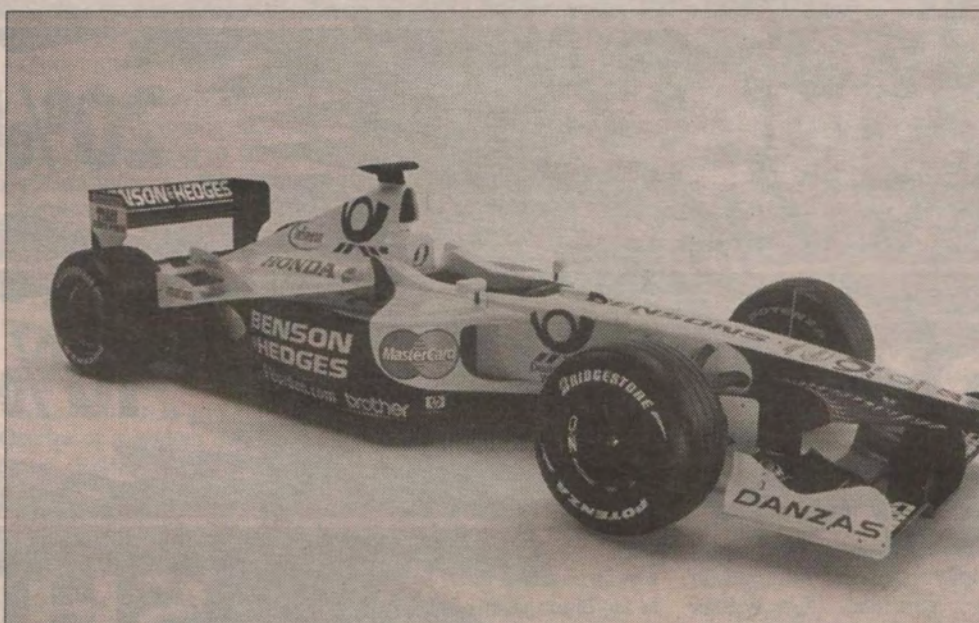
A team of UCD mechanical engineering students who have designed a racing car from scratch will enter the Formula Student competition in July.

This will be the first time that an Irish engineering school participates in the competition.

A team of 24 is working around the clock to make the single seated racing car a reality, ahead of the competition in Birmingham. Marks will be awarded for a presentation on the car given by one of the students, and four students will be chosen to drive the car during tests.

The UCD team is currently finalising the Computer Aided Design before actual construction commences. Regulations limit the size of the car engine to 610cc and testing events are designed to analyse the performance of the car under several areas such as acceleration, skid pad testing and endurance.

With the power output



The competition provides a fertile breeding ground for Formula One designers and engineers, according to Irish Formula One team owner Eddie Jordan who is sponsoring the team

limited to 75 b.h.p., the design brief is for a lightweight chassis, to achieve a high power-to-weight ratio which should result in a machine with superb acceleration.

The competition provides a fertile breeding ground for Formula One designers and engineers, according to Irish Formula One team owner

Eddie Jordan who is sponsoring the team. "Our key objective in sponsoring the team is to assess the best students and recruit them for the future," he explained.

Eye Spy

WITH the increasing use of computers in college courses, students are now more likely to require frequent eye testing.

USI will be calling for the availability of free eye tests in colleges, as part of their broader health care plan for students, when they meet with the Minister for Health, Michael Martin, later this year.

In recognition of the growing cost, USI are extending this year's annual survey to include costs of opticians, along with the costs of health care medical cards and dentist fees.

Despite the fact that there is currently no scientific evidence to prove that computer use causes any damage to eyes, the fact remains that a high proportion of computer users complain of some form of eye problem.

The most common complaints include eyestrain, tired eyes, dry or irritated eyes, a burning sensation, redness or blurred vision.

Since 1993, EC legislation has placed responsibilities on employers whose employees regularly use computers as part of work, regardless of whether they work in an office or from the home. In such cases, the employer must:

- * Provide a full examination free of charge at regular intervals (approximately two years)

- * Provide a free examination if employee is experiencing visual problems which may be due to working with a computer

- * Pay for a pair of basic glasses if it is shown that an employee requires them specifically for computer use

- * Provide adequate breaks or changes of activity to reduce general visual fatigue

- * Provide health and safety training information relating to the work station

Typically the cost of eye tests range from £14-£20. So unless a student is working with computers in a paid job, the burden of cost rests on them.

With the exception of Specs-Xpress, none of the other main opticians offer a student discount on eye tests.

Specs-Xpress' policy varies according to location, but ranges from a 10 per cent discount, to £3 off before 11am, weekdays.

UCC's Careers wins Website of the Year

UCC's Career Service has been awarded the impressive Careers Service Website 2000 by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS).

UCC won £1,000, beating off stiff competition from colleges in the UK and Ireland, including Brunel University, the University of London, the University of Plymouth and the renowned Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services in Ireland and the UK.

AGCAS represents over 1,100 careers staff in 130 higher education institutions. "It's a great accomplishment to have been chosen over so many large UK institutions which put a lot of resources into their sites," said UCC's Head of Career Services, Seamus McEvoy.

The adjudicating panel assessed the site with reference to ease of navigation, the likelihood that a viewer will return to the site, links to existing high quality resources, and evidence that the site is reviewed and updated regularly.

With about 2,000 hits a week, the site's objective is to provide students with information on careers, or links to other sites with additional information, ruling out undependable search engines. Jobs are listed from all over Ireland.

"It's like a public notice board, in that job offers are posted as soon as employers contact the university," Mr McEvoy said. UCC Careers Service can be accessed at www.ucc.ie/careers.

Changes in engineering course

UCD's "omnibus" entry to engineering is being scrapped this year, with students specifying their degree programme preference in their initial CAO application.

The move hopes to address the common problem of students not getting their first option when they broke up into second year, on account of quotas on each course.

This amounted to about one in five students, UCD's Head of Mechanical Engineering, Jerry Burns told *campus.ie*.

The six degree courses include agricultural and food engineering; chemical engineering; civil engineering; electronic or electrical engineering; mechanical engineering; or civil engineering or mechanical engineering. However students will still be taking a common first year, but they will be identified as a part of their selected department from the beginning.

Prof Burns maintains that the benefit of students getting the discipline they want outweighs the disadvantage of choosing the discipline on limited knowledge.

"We're trying to give Leaving Certificate students as much information about the courses as possible," he said.

Students wishing to transfer between disciplines will be facilitated by the faculty once they have the original entry requirements such as that for mathematics.

In addition, Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering will offer a common entry course from which students will make a free choice to enter second year Civil Engineering or second year Mechanical Engineering.

In the case of Electronic and Electrical Engineering the first three years are common with free choice in fourth year to either Electronic Engineering or Electrical Engineering.

Prof Burns believes the new changes will reduce drop out rates from the course.

"We feel that people coming into the course will know what they want to do, and so will be more committed - although engineering faculty is know for its exceptionally low dropout rate".

The entry system will probably change of the mix of students, resulting in a much more focussed and demanding student body, he maintains.

Students will no longer have to have a minimum of a B3 in higher-level maths for entry.

This has now been dropped to a minimum of a C3, except for electronic or electrical engineering, "aimed at bringing the range of engineering degree programmes in UCD to as wide a market as possible," Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Architecture, Professor Vincent Dodd explained.



THE ALTERNATIVE STUDENT & YOUTH TRAVEL COMPANY

**For the
ULTIMATE Trip -
Check these out...**

Paris from £99 rtn • Amsterdam from £99 rtn
Frankfurt/Dusseldorf from £120 rtn
Oslo from £199 rtn • Barcelona from £199 rtn
Prague from £207 rtn
New York / Boston from £238 rtn
Chicago from £290 rtn
San Francisco from £368 rtn
Bangkok / Capetown from £507 rtn
Hong Kong from £475 rtn
Kuala Lumpur / Singapore from £565 rtn

With a SAYIT ticket...

**“MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY,
minimum FUSS!”**

Discover *Australia* & the WORLD!

from only **£1,080** Includes 6 free stops
No minimum stay and valid for up to 1 year.

Book between 1-31 March
& receive a 15% discount on
Worldwide travel ins.
Also a NOMADS Travel
Guide & Adventure Card
for all flights booked to
OZ in March & April

13, Crown Alley, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.

(01) 6715900

76, Grand Parade, Cork.

(021) 4279188

Burn baby burn!

The complete quota for student visas to the States this summer has been issued. For those of you who have decided to explore the West Coast and are thinking of spending the last few days relaxing before your stay has expired, Burning Man Festival is a must.

This year will be the fifteenth year of this cultural/survival event. It originated at Baker Beach in San Francisco when Larry Harvey and a friend Jerry James burned the first man. From a small gathering at a local beach it has proliferated into a festival of 28,000 participants, taking place in Black Rock Desert, Nevada State.

Last year, while living in San Francisco a friend suggested going to the Burning Man Festival during Labour weekend.

The prospect of paying \$200 each to spend 5 days in a tent in the middle of the desert did not appear appealing, in fact the word lunacy came to mind. I began asking friends who had visited the festival on previous years about the event. Their responses were all positive but unremittingly vague. 'Amazing', 'Out of this world', 'Bring oranges they make the best gifts', 'Best party ever' were a few of the comments I encountered.

Intrigued by such enthusiastic yet non-descript feedback, I decided to surf the ever-useful internet to try and discover what this festival actually involved.

The official Burning Man website described the festival as 'an annual experiment in temporary community dedicated to radical self-expression and radical self-reliance'.

Included on the website were practical guidelines, an in-depth survival guide which warned about the dangers of dehydration, recommending a daily quota of two gallons of water.

It emphasised that it was a survival adventure, mentioning how you could be exposed severe heat.

Due to all of the positive responses we had heard about Burning Man, my friend and I decided to go. We drove through the state of Nevada down a two-lane

*Ruth Carson
risked the
intense heat of
the desert to take
part in a unique
festival*

highway unsure and mystified by what lay ahead.

We were excited about seeing the desert as we turned into the last stop off from civilisation, a basic mini market in Black Rock City which has a population of fifty people. Ironically named

'The Road To Nowhere' there were people cluttered around the small store in highly decorative costumes, others half-nude and some dressed conservatively. Inside, we bought necessities need for the experience then clambered back into our rented car.

Soon we were driving slowly across the playa of the 400 square mile destination known as Black Rock Desert.

At the entrance, greeters welcomed us, warned us not to litter, to leave the playa as we found it and presented us with maps. The maps were detailed guides to our new home for the next five days. Each road referred to a different part of the body which we discovered was the prevailing theme of the festival. The worlds' first giant laser pictogram greeted us as did numerous people waving and some presenting gifts.

We had arrived into a surreal community, a magical place, the biggest fun fair you can imagine, alongside a constant contrasting battle of hot and cold weather.

The days frequently reached a temperature of 105 degrees which were often followed by evenings of endless rain and wind, sand embedding everywhere. It was an introduction to new kinds of performing arts, poetry, sculpture, a rich variety of theme camps and all sorts of music.



Saturday night arrived quickly, the pinnacle of the festival, the night when the enormous man is burnt. Various artworks and sculptures are also burnt by their creators as the energy and atmosphere climaxes into an almost riot like affair

You could play human foos ball, travel through gigantic art installations, dance away the dawn, morning, afternoon, sit back and listen to Jazz, Blues, Funk, Folk.

When feeling sand-ridden and uncomfortable with the heat, a friendly face would appear and offer you water, an ice-cream van would call to your camp bearing gifts of ice pops, if you were inexperienced and not prepared for the freezing nights, people invited you around their fire or into their RV to warm up.

Our neighbours would insist on making us pancakes with strawberries for breakfast. Later we enjoyed a cool Naked Mississippi cocktail in the hot afternoon.

There were so many things to do from getting a new hairstyle or relaxing with a foot, back or all-over body massage.

We spent every enjoyable afternoon strolling through the centre of the playa looking at the amazing and innovative sculptures, taking part in interactive art and fun and games.

We often hid from the hot sun in Central Cafe, re-energising with a mocha, or cappuccino, listening to some live music, or just chatting to someone. There were numerous marches and parades to participate in or watch pass by.

Saturday night arrived quickly, the pinnacle of the festival, the night when the enormous man is burnt.

Various artworks and sculptures are also burnt by their creators as the energy and atmosphere climaxes into an almost riot like affair.



An impressive opera with a huge orchestra, actors, dancers and performers encouraging the audience participation was enacted. The end of this unique and innovative festival was celebrated until the early hours of Sunday morning.

The Burning Man Festival is an event that has 'no commercial vending', a place 'of sharing and exchange with a gift economy'. It is an experience which can be compared with no other.

It is an experience of living in an almost idyllic community, of imagination, survival and ultimate

fun. People of all ages and all walks of life take part in the event.

The festival begins August 27th and the official ending is December 3rd. Many choose to stay longer and help the volunteers clean up.

The theme of this year's festival The Seven Ages and takes the shape of an enormous board game.

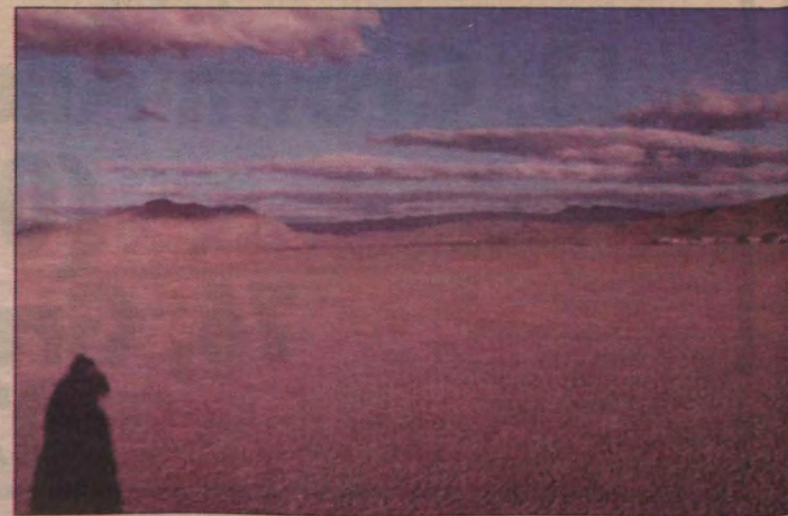
Tickets have been on sale since December 20th.

For more information, visit www.BurningMan.com, the official website.

Don't forget to bring oranges, they are a very popular gift!



It was an introduction to new kinds of performing arts, poetry, sculpture, a rich variety of theme camps and all sorts of music.



The days frequently reached a temperature of 105 degrees

Karting club claim All-Ireland crown

By Brian Healy

The All Ireland Intervarsities Karting Championships took place at the Pallas Karting track in Tynagh, County Galway on February 23rd, and once again it was DIT that emerged as champions for the third successive year. It was Mark McIntyre who clinched the title for DIT, finishing first place in the final and therefore defeating nearest rivals Waterford IT by 317 points to 307.

But unlike the two previous years, when DIT recorded relatively easy victories, this year's competition was closely contested, with both WIT and CIT boasting impressive, competitive outfits. UCD, Sligo IT and F&S were also a lot stronger than previous years. The All-Ireland Final consisted of 20 teams, with a driver from each team driving two heats, which were followed by 10 semi-finals and a grand final featuring a driver from each team. Points were awarded throughout with heat positions determining driver positions in the semi-finals.

Sixty drivers from the various colleges around the country made the trip to Galway to race against the defending champions, but their best efforts were not enough to dislodge DIT from the top spot on the podium. Each of the competing colleges entered with the choice of sending either one team of five or two teams to the event. DIT gained the honour of sending the first

ladies team to compete in the championship. With some superb driving from Denise in particular and the consistency of Lisa Dunne, the female team finished ahead of the male UCD team and fully justified their inclusion.

This year's championship was filled with drama. During the first set of heats, the biggest crash of the meeting took place. While not quite the ferocity of Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve's recent shunts in Australia, Karl Lewis experienced a nonetheless heart-stopping incident when in fourth position. On the second

corner of the circuit, two drivers ahead

of Lewis collided. Breaking hard, Karl spun and hit the back of the cars ahead of him, throwing both driver and kart into the air before landing awkwardly on his side and head. In a sporting gesture, DIT Karting leader, Ray Nangle, who was in a great position to win the race, retreated to ensure Lewis was not badly hurt. Two other drivers were not as compassionate and passed Ray on his way back. However, he did manage to pass one of them to finish in second place. Thankfully, Lewis emerged with little more than bruising on his arm and a sore head. Despite this, he was back in a replacement kart for the next heat.

The semi-finals were equally dramatic. Waterford IT's Bob Riley crashed on the final corner in the last lap to see victory dashed from his grasp, allowing DIT's Ross Clarke to claim the full compliment of points. This was a hammer blow to Waterford's efforts,



who had been neck and neck with DIT throughout the competition. This incident would prove a major factor in DIT's ultimately regaining the crown. Drivers were pushed to the limit in the semi-final with the winner of each heat qualifying to the final.

The final saw CIT's Robert Lewis holding pole position, with DIT's Mark McIntyre lined up alongside

Lewis on the front row. And it was McIntyre who

emerged victorious, with fellow DIT driver Simon Clarke in second place and WIT's Ian O'Brien finishing in third. McIntyre's win clinched the overall

title for DIT Karting Club, defeating WIT by 317 points to 307. IT Sligo finished third with a respectable 302 points. The night was spent in joyous revelry in Galway

as three hundred free pints from Heineken were duly downed by the DIT drivers.

The full DIT team were: Mark MacIntyre, John Hanrahan, Ken Gallagher, Karl Bonar, Ross Clarke, John Reilly, Ray Nangle, Simon Clarke, Noel Renchan and Pissy Goggins.

The Ladies team consisted of Kate McNamara, Denise Drennan, Lisa Dunne, Lisa Holten and Amy Williams.

You're just four clicks away from
your future career with...

www.topgrads.ie



Overall President

Dermot Keyes and Jennifer Duggan spoke to the three aspirants to DITSU's highest office in the run up to the elections, which take place on March 14



**Marguerite
Fitzpatrick**

Marguerite is currently Site President of DIT Bolton Street. She has been involved with the students union for the past five years being a member of various committees and a DITSU council. Through her experience, Marguerite believes she has "gained valuable experience in the mechanics of how the union is actually run".

If she is elected as overall president, Marguerite intends "to bring the newly elected DITSU executive together as a cohesive unit, forming a strong, focused, enthusiastic team".

She has a number of aims and policies to implement if elected; among these are to "bring a much needed sense of Professionalism and Relevance to the work of DITSU and to improve its communication both internally and externally."

She intends to start from basics to improve the Union. This includes improved Internet access for all Union officers. She also intends there to be "hard working and efficient Union Officers who have undergone

comprehensive and relevant training during the summer months including a module on Basic Office Management.

"If elected, I intend to improve the professionalism of the Union's entertainments by introducing a full-time Entertainment's Manager to the staff of the company." She believes that such an appointment is needed within the Union.

"DITSU can not afford to remain in the past as students move forward and regrettably further away from their Union. I intend to seriously examine the relevance of the Union in today's student society and implement the much needed changes." If elected, Marguerite proposes to carry out a Strategic Review of the Students Union. Communication, according to Marguerite, is vital to the running of the Students Union.

"That comes straight from the top; the Overall President has to communicate well with his/her executive and staff and ensure that the chain of good communication continues down the line to part-time officers, class reps and lastly but most importantly students."

To ensure communication, Marguerite believes that "class reps are the key to the strength of the Union. I intend to initiate a campaign throughout the sites encouraging students to be class reps."

Another way in which she intends to communicate with the students is through the official DITSU website.

"The potential of our site is huge and should be maximised. I intend to employ a company to deconstruct and rebuild the site: www.ditsu.ie should be the most widely accessed website among DIT students."



**Ray
Nangle**

As head of the DIT Karting Club, Ray Nangle has certainly been one of the more high profile students attending DIT Aungier Street during the past two years. His reasons for standing for DITSU's top position was a logical one, he told the DIT Independent.

"After two years of involvement with clubs and societies and having seen some things right and some things wrong, there are a number of policies I would like to implement should I be elected. I'd like to get the facilities issue sorted out for all DIT students, to establish extensive channels of communication at all levels throughout DIT and to see the Grangegorman issue finally sorted out."

Nangle believes that his experience with the Karting club in relation to leadership, negotiation skills and dealing with businesses would make him a good choice for election come March 14.

"To organise a team effectively; that's what I'm good at. I had a year's sabbatical with Coca Cola and was put in charge of a team of 17. I love business, I love organisation and from that point of view, being DITSU President is pretty much the ideal job for me. I get to do what I am being taught in."

As well as being Overall President, there are two company chairmanships assumed by the election winner and it is business and not politics that is his main area of concern should he become the holder of the highest office in the Union.

"Pursuing a political future is not on my agenda," said Nangle.

Of course, the political context of the job has to be recognised and it has been used in the past as a step into the political world.

You have to be political when it comes to negotiations but I feel that it is equally important to get the organisation of an event right and to put in place a number of business organisation structures in DITSU." His ultimate aim, it would appear, is to change the way that DITSU is perceived by the average student.

"The Students Union has fallen to an all-time low, I believe and that's been said a lot in DIT circles. It's time for something fresh, new and different."



**Cathy
Power**

Cathy Power currently holds the position of Site President in Cathal Brugha Street. She has four years experience with the Students Union and has believes she has "a long proven track record as a member of the Union." In 1998/99 she held the position of Equality Officer and the following year she was the CBS Welfare Officer/ Deputy President.

Cathy's main aim for her presidency, if elected is "to make sure that all the students of DIT achieve the very best out of the union."

Speaking about her campaign Cathy said: "Having been a member of Governing Body this year, I have already laid positive relations with the superior figures within DIT and Dublin City Council."

Among the issues Cathy will be focusing on are facilities, quality

assurance, welfare and education campaigns and part time officer training. She will be looking for answers about the Grangegorman site as two years after the students were told that it would be going ahead nothing yet has been done. Cathy believes that "it is time to get the power of the students back on board and finally get some answers."

Cathy also wants to examine the Student Quality Assessment of lecturers scheme. An agreement was met whereby assessment forms would be given out to students but as of yet this has not happened. Power told the DIT Independent that "it's time to get course committees up and running in all the colleges and ensure wide spread student representation."

Welfare and education campaigns are also an integral part of her manifesto.

"The welfare campaigns are always run very well," but she believes that "a lot more effort needs to be put into running education campaigns."

She also sees part time officer training as being a very important issue and one which she would address if she were to be elected.

"It is important that our part time officers have proper training to ensure that they can carry out their jobs to the best of their ability."

Cathy intends to look after the needs of all DIT students including part time and international students who are often left out of Student Union activities.

DITSU Elections 2001 . . .

DITSU Elections 2001 . . .

Election candidates on campaign footing

It's that time of year again, as DIT students get ready to vote for the DITSU that will serve them during 2001/2002. Jennifer Duggan and Dermot Keyes got the lowdown from those who hope to come up trumps come election day.

Aungier Street



**Karl Bonar -
running for President in
Aungier Street**

"I want to get a clubs and societies room and two Internet access computers in the Students Union. We've got to make the Union more accessible and more useful to students in Aungier Street. I'd like to put an intervarsity ents event in place for next year; maybe run a Wednesday night in a small pub and then every second week run an intervarsity night with UCD and DCU. This would be something I would be confident of seeing put in place next year. Nights out should be more enjoyable and more fun. I'll make a big push for more people to get the grant."

Aungier Street Deputy President/Welfare

Bonar is the only candidate for the top job in Aungier Street, with Noel Renahan the sole nominee for the Deputy President's position, so barring a strange occurrence come election day, it would appear that Peter Durning and Simon Clarke's replacements will be chosen without too much drama.

Cathal Brugha St



**John McKenna -
running for President in
Cathal Brugha Street**

"I see a great need for improvements to facilities for Cathal Brugha Street and for Sackville Place and Denmark Street, which have been neglected in this regard for far too long. Part time students seem to get a raw deal so I would like to get them more involved in the union next year. There are a couple of issues about the canteen that I'd like to see redressed. I'd like to get DIT to serve full breakfasts in the morning and to increase the vegetarian options for meals. We need an upgrading of the facilities in the common room and I'd like to get couches in the pool room."

Cathal Brugha Street Deputy President/Welfare

McKenna is unopposed in his bid to become President, as is the nominee for the number two position in DITSU CBS. The elections of both McKenna and Jennifer O'Connor should not be too problematic come polling day.

Bolton Street



**John Hanrahan -
running for President in
Bolton Street**

"Securing accommodation for Bolton Street students would be one of my major goals and to get that accommodation in Grangegorman is one of my top priorities. The need for our own sports fields on the site is a must. I for one am sick and tired of seeing students having to travel to pitches in Terenure and other parts of the city."

"If we could just get three or four acres out of the 65 available in Grangegorman that could be used for the students in time for the start of the next college year is very important. The cleanliness of the toilets in the college needs to be looked at."

"We need to improve the image of the Students' Union also needs to be examined. At Bolton Street, the Students' Union has become a bit of a no-go area for some students."

A friendly and more approachable atmosphere must be emphasised. I like the Union myself and I'd like to improve and enhance the profiles of welfare, clubs and societies and entertainment. I myself know the importance of student welfare as I availed of it myself this year and I want the area of student welfare to be looked into."



**Neal Cromien - running for
President in Bolton Street**

"I would like to continue the good work that I've started in the past year. Clubs and socs training needs to be looked at and we need to put something in place in DIT that students can't get anywhere else. Theme nights such as casino nights, stripper nights, etc are all events I'd like to see being put in place."

"Also, there's a lot of stuff I didn't get to do this year as Vice President of Bolton Street that I would like to see done should I be elected as President. I believe my experience of the workings of the Union would also help me next year. I also feel that DISTU has to change in the way that students have changed over the past 10 years. Once we make these changes to the Union, they must be maintained."

Bolton Street Deputy President/Welfare

The race for the Deputy Presidency will also be fought out between two candidates, namely Paddy Mc Elligott and Donna Mulligan, so the battle in Bolton Street should make the count a little more interesting here than it will be when the Aungier Street ballots are counted.

Your choice . . . Your vote . . . Use it

DITSU Elections 2001

DITSU Elections 2001

Campaigns swing into action

Kevin Street

Mountjoy Square



Keith Magee -
running for President in Kevin St

"I am running for the position of President in Kevin Street because I see it as a great challenge and because I believe I have a lot to offer. Among my main policies should I be elected into office would be bring academic issues to the fore. I believe that currently the Student's Union is currently not very approachable and I want to change this through making changes to the class rep system. If I become president, I would hold regular meetings with the class reps so that students could be up front with problems they were having.

"I would also like to see improvements in the area of sport. I believe that despite Kevin Street having some of the best sporting facilities within DIT, there are some changes I would like to implement, which would make these better.

"I also believe that there should be proper structures in place for clubs and societies and that they should all have a committee and a pro which would advertise their club or society properly. Regarding entertainment, if I become President there would be an overhaul in this area as there is not being enough done at the moment."

Kevin Street Deputy President/Welfare

Lyndsey Jones finds herself involved in a race to the number two post in DITSU Kevin Street that involves only herself. Again, she is virtually assured to be elected should her campaigning prove successful with potential voters.



Des Alvey -
running for President in Kevin St

"I've been involved in the union for three years and I ran for Deputy President and Welfare last year and I have been ents officer this year. My three years experience in the Students Union would prove valuable for me were I elected.

"There's a feeling in Kevin Street that the Student's Union is not a welcoming place for all students; that it's a bit cliquey and a little intimidating for a number of students who never go down into the Union at all.

"I would like to create a greater database of information and communication within both the Union and the entire student body.

"There's also a need to resurrect the class rep situation and ensure that each class has a class rep and the appropriate number of class reps is appointed as per the number of students in each class.

"The Union must act on problems that our students face. The grants issue, Grangegorman and problems with facilities have to be addressed. Student opinion must be sought. I want to ensure that ents will run more efficiently.

"A professional approach to ticket sales and a greater variety for students on nights out is another area I would work on."



Sinead O'Leary -
running for President in
Mountjoy Square

"To instigate a new policy for the Students Union in terms of heightening student awareness in what the Union can do for them would be one of my main policies. The Art and Design students have a number of issues which need to be addressed and I would ensure that their cause would be put to the relevant bodies within DIT.

"The facilities issues, such as an upgrading of the library from its current level and to increase the interest in clubs and societies is something I would put a lot of time and energy into. The grants campaign needs to be continued.

"I've worked a lot with TD's and the Minister for Education and I have been recently invited to the Dail to meet with a number of deputies to discuss the material grant. General entertainments need to be examined and talks with pubs and clubs would feature highly on my agenda.

"We need to broaden the horizons for canteen entertainment in the canteen and try and get a few bands from within the college to play there more often."

Andrew Kavanagh Doyle -

running for Deputy
President/Welfare

"I would increase the push for DIT's University status and would initiate campaigns both with students and lecturing staff. We need to get more students on course committees as well as getting more people involved in the Students Union itself.

"We need to make more people aware of the facilities that are currently available to them. I would put in place an easier system for people to get student welfare as well as obtaining student information.

"I've decided to stand because I've been involved in the Students Union for the past three years as a class rep, I've been involved with DIT Rugby Club as well as playing a role in the campaign for Grangegorman. I've been a student councillor and part-time student officer this year. I know that I can do the job; it's not an easy job, but I can do it. I enjoy the challenge and I know that I'm capable of doing my job."



Joe Walsh -
running for President in
Mountjoy Square

"There's a need to overlook the integration between Aungier Street and Mountjoy Square and ensure that all courses from Mountjoy Square are maintained and properly catered for once the move is made. The social event integration between Aungier Street and Mountjoy Square must be maintained in connection with the move to the new site.

"Rag week was widely criticised and we need to look at the way we run the week and ensure that in the future we all just don't treat it as a party week. We should orientate it back to the raising of money for charity and try and increase the importance of this area of the week.

"We need to build up the hype for Rag Week and have the week and the importance of the week emphasised.

"A comprehensive look at Rag Week is required but at the same time it's important that students enjoy themselves during those five days as well. I'd look to build on this year's increase the grants campaign and keep the pressure up on the government.

"Dropping of the third world debt was something I lobbied for as welfare officer this year and I see the cancellation of the debt as vital. We will be sending a petition to the G8 Conference in Tokyo in July in relation to dropping the debt."

Alison Boyle -

running for Deputy
President/Welfare

"I would like to continue the policy to drop third world debt, continuing the campaign that we began earlier in the year. I would also continue to address the drug rape awareness campaign and try to get the Art and Design grant increased as they have some major expenses during the academic year.

"I would also like to raise the awareness of all students about the services that the Union provides and to treat them all equally in the college."

**No Vote,
No Voice,
Polling March 14th**

reviews

The last word in beer



Movies/by Jamie Hannigan

Not such a gift

THE GIFT
(Cert 18/112min)

CONSIDER THE SET-UP. In the tiny town of Brixton, Georgia, young widow Annie Wilson (Cate Blanchett), supports her three children in the tiny town of Brixton, Georgia through a meagre living as a psychic, reading cards and telling fortunes. When a promiscuous young socialite (Katie Holmes) goes missing, the authorities reluctantly turn to Annie for clues to her whereabouts.

Add to this a supporting cast of sceptical locals, superstitious white-trash hicks (Keanu Reeves is surprisingly convincing as a menacing wife-beater, making his ludicrous turn in *The Watcher* all the more dreadful) and the unnatural creepiness of the Georgia swamps and you should have a damn good supernatural thriller.

A great cast, an established director (Sam Raimi, behind the upcoming *Spider-man*) and Oscar-winning screenwriter (Billy-Bob Thornton). So what the hell

went wrong?

Thornton and fellow screenwriter Tom Epperson certainly have a knack for the nuances of small-town life in the deep south. The redneck element, in particular, seem to be dead-on, from the John Deere baseball caps to the grits they had for breakfast.

All the more shame that the story is so lacklustre. As a whodunnit it's made redundant by the fact that you can't bring yourself to care either way for any of the supporting characters... not only that, but the eventual culprit seems so blatantly obvious that you'll have figured it out half-an-hour before the film has caught up. By the end, you're left with the nagging impression that you just paid £4.50 to see a TV movie.

Balancing this is Blanchett's astonishing central performance as Annie. It's the sort of acting that bypasses the part of your brain telling you that what you're watching is fiction and has you hanging on her every move. It's a shame that

being in such an average film probably harmed her chances of a well-deserved Oscar nomination.

STATE AND MAIN
(Cert 18/102min)

STATE AND MAIN is one of the funniest films I have seen in recent years and if it doesn't end up on my Top Ten of 2001 than this will have been the best 12 months for cinema in a long, long time. A Hollywood film-crew descend on the small town of Waterford, Vermont - a place where everybody knows each others first names and the local doctor wears a bow-tie. The film-crew have enough of their own problems: Director Walt Price (William H. Macy) has to contend with a leading lady (Sarah Jessica Parker) who won't take her clothes off in a nude scene and a leading man (Alec Baldwin) with a predilection for underage girls.

Not only that, but shooting a film called "The Old Mill" becomes that little bit more difficult when it turns out that the town no longer has an old

mill. The responsibility for ironing such problems out of the script falls onto the shoulders of idealistic young playwright and first-time screenwriter Joe White (Phillip Seymour Hoffman) who finds his loyalties divided between a promising career and small-town life with local theatre director and book-shop owner Ann Black (Rebecca Pidgeon).

Renowned writer/director David Mamet accepted a commission to write the first draft of *The Silence Of The Lambs*-sequel *Hannibal* (also reviewed) just as he was gearing up for pre-production on *State And Main*. It's possible that Mamet's original script was so poor (Schlinder's List-scribe Steven Zaillian was brought in to do a major re-write) because he was so preoccupied with *State And Main*.

If that was indeed the case, than any of *Hannibal*'s failings can be seen as a worthy sacrifice. *State And Main* is the finest thing you will see this month.

Eye eye! Here comes the ball

By Deirdre Groarke

FOR too many years, we in DIT have stood on the periphery of college entertainment. For longer than we care to remember, our students have suffered the insult and indignation of being labelled a boring college.

For too long Trinity, UCD and DCU rather presumptuously I might add, have claimed superiority in the organisation and presentation of events.

They claimed to hold the best events fuelled by the best sponsorship.

This year though, it will be different.

Three brave courses have elected seven courageous individuals who have vowed to chastise the stereotypes and eradicate the pretentious views of those in other colleges.

The Engineers, Auctioneers and Surveyors have joined forces, devoted their precious time and relegated their studies to obscurity to present you with the EYEBALL aptly named, I know.

It is all happening on March 28th in the Burlington Hotel. So lads scrub up well, because the ladies will look as beautiful as ever.... hmm no comment.

Lads as most of you will inevitably have trouble in scrubbing up well we have arranged in conjunction with Gents Formal Wear (Mary's St.) to provide tuxes at half price.

There is also no need to worry about smuggling in the naggings (you know who you are) as the enterprising organisers have a bountiful ally in Boru Vodka Rocks, who have generously agreed to provide £5000 of FREE drink.

This event will be the biggest event to be staged by DIT to date and the most popular. S

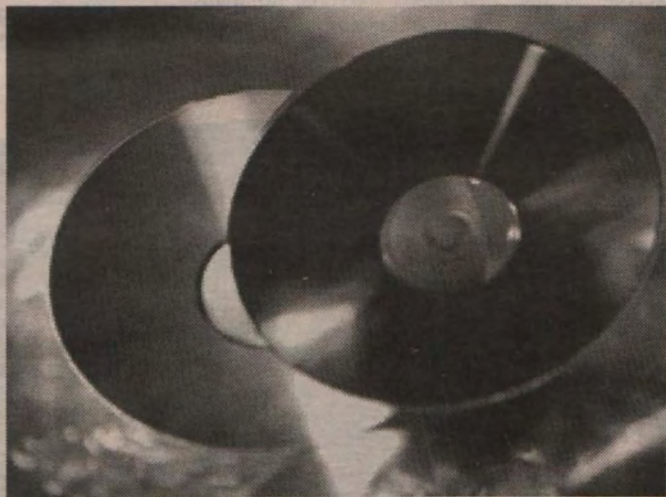
o much so that we have arranged to sell tickets in St. Pats, a cunning plan to boost the female attendance, so Bolton lads you will not end up snogging lads this time ... Isn't that right????



HMV

Top Dog for music, videos and games

HMV offers a 10% student discount*



10 copies of
**Music - The Definitive Hits
Collection Volume 1**
CD to give away

Just write to the DIT Independent, DITSU, Rathmines, Dublin 6

* Terms and conditions apply

Clubs

Velvet or cotton?

I had my reservations going to Velvet to review their student night, Tongue 'n' Cheek. Unfortunately most of them were confirmed.

First, there was the small matter of getting past the bouncer.

I truly had never met such an ignorant and conceited one before in my life. Words had no effect on this man, and after a five-minute clarification session, my mates and I eventually got in.

Admission is £4 and after that it is an impressive £1 per pint for the whole night. There were one or two vicious rumours going around on the night, however, that the pints were watered down but I am happy to dispel all such nonsense.

Unfortunately the price of the pint did not make up for the state of the nightclub that night.

The bathrooms were cramped and dirty with no locks on the cubicle doors.

First-year student Deirdre Woods was less than impressed with the cleanliness of the ladies toilets and was insistent that a "bottle of Domestos or two" was urgently needed.

Overall, comfort is lacking in Velvet and there are few areas to relax in. Apart from one area by the entrance, seating is sparse and most of us stood for the night.

The dance floor was also quite cramped and at times it felt like we were dancing in the cloakroom rather than the club.

To its credit, the music in Velvet was good. It ranged from House to R&B and

*Eoin Murphy samples
a bit of Tongue 'n'
Cheek, the student
night at Velvet*

there was even a selection from the sixties.

This was a refreshing change from some of the hard core dance music that other Dublin clubs pump out.

The lighting over the dance floor was ample but without any dramatic features. Large television screens surrounded the dance floor and in case of boredom, the punters could always watch a bit of a Disney classic such as *The Lion King* which was played all night.

On the night I visited, Velvet was plump with customers and there was an eclectic mix of people ranging from Erasmus students to natives from Cork.

However, despite the crowd, you were never left long waiting at the bar.

Velvet's Tongue 'n' Cheek night is considered by the management to be a continuing success and they believe that students prefer "cheap beer instead of free admission".

However, there are very few surprises and apart from the cheap beer, there are no other real incentives to go.

film reviews

The last word in beer



A mixed movie dish

HANNIBAL (Cert 18/135min)

OPINION FOR THOMAS HARRIS' long-awaited sequel to *The Silence Of The Lambs* was at best, deeply divided. Rumour has it that he refused to watch the hugely successful film-adaptation of his own novel and was determined to give the third book a wholly-unfilmable ending.

Unsurprisingly, the film of *Hannibal* - the third to feature gruesomely seductive serial-killer Dr Hannibal Lecter - diverges from the novel's surreal closing pages. Other than that, Ridley Scott's film is admirably faithful to the book, with Anthony Hopkins chewing all available scenery in the role that earned him an Oscar in 1991.

Ten years on from the events in the previous film, FBI Agent Clarice Starling (now played by Julianne Moore) is still slogging away at the FBI. A botched drug-raid leaves her in the Bureau's bad books, prompting a letter of commiseration from Lecter, now living under an alias in Florence. Starling is duly brought back into the search for Lecter - mainly due to the machinations of Mason Verger, (an unrecognisable Gary Oldman) Lecter's only surviving victim, now intent on revenging himself on the good doctor.

Screenwriters Steven Zaillian and David Mamet manage to purge many of the book's flaws (Lecter and Clarice didn't exchange words until well into the last 100 pages) although the Florence sequence does drag on a little too long. An unfortunate development, however, is the apparent overdose of cannibal puns which border on embarrassing rather than creepy.

Thomas Harris purists will be interested to know that three different endings were actually shot: one for Ridley Scott, one for Harris and one for producer Dino de Laurentiis.

With any luck, the other two endings (along with a rumoured hour of unseen footage) will turn up on the DVD later this year.

*** 1/2

THE LEGEND OF BAGGAR VANCE (Cert PG/127min)

LIKE *CHOCOLAT* (also reviewed this month) *The Legend of Baggar Vance* is

... *Serial-killers on opposite ends of the IQ ladder in HANNIBAL and THE WATCHER ... Against all evidence to the contrary, golf is entertaining in THE LEGEND OF BAGGAR VANCE ... CHOCOLAT leaves a hollow taste in the mouth while STATE AND MAIN proves to be the sweetest dish amongst this month's releases ... by JAMIE HANNIGAN ...*

reminiscent of that kind of old-fashioned film-making that "they just don't make anymore".

Whether or not that is a good thing, however, remains to be seen.

Rannulph Junuh (Matt Damon) was the finest young golf-player that Savannah, Georgia had ever seen, until he was traumatised by the horrors of World War I. Now a shell of a man, he is urged to leave his self-imposed retirement of drink and gambling by the one-time love of his life, Adele Invergordon (Charlize Theron), who is desperately trying to keep her late-father's vision - The Krewe Island Golf Resort - from being sold.

Junuh wants none of it, until the mysterious Baggar Vance (Will Smith) steps out of the night. Vance is one of those other-worldly angel-types that always turn up in films like this.

His main purpose in life seems to consist of dispensing little nuggets of home-brewed wisdom while helping Junuh find his "perfect swing".

Despite the Great Depression setting and impending world war, director Robert Redford drapes a rose-tinted charm over every single frame with the sole intention of leaving the audience with a warm glow when they leave the cinema.

Against all odds, it works. Like another Redford film (*The Sting*, in which he starred with Paul Newman)

The Legend of Baggar Vance gives you two hours of an unashamedly sentimental world that could never exist outside of the big screen. Just don't forget to leave your cynicism outside.

CHOCOLAT (Cert 12/121min)

I HATE it when people eat food in the cinema. You know the kind; they always sit behind and to the left of you, and in the first five minutes, they open a bag of crisps. Not the small newsagent packs, but the big, party-sized ones. They always open them with a quick flourish and shower the back of your neck with little flecks of potato.

And just when you think they've finished, they start slurping out of those giant Coke containers that you only get in cinema lobbies.

And then you kill them.

All that said, I would advise you to bring some kind of confectionery if you go to see *Chocolat*. Every two minutes the cinema screen is awash with milk being poured slowly into a massive tub of liquid chocolate, which is then stirred... very, very slowly.

A mysterious stranger (Juliette Binoche) and her young daughter (Victoire Thivisol) arrive in the strict-but-fair town of Lansquenet, France.

The year is 1957 and the town mayor and patriarch



Matt Damon plays Rannulph Junuh in *The Legend of Baggar Vance*



Unsurprisingly, the film of *Hannibal* - the third to feature gruesomely seductive serial-killer Dr Hannibal Lecter - diverges from the novel's surreal closing pages

(Alfred Molina) makes sure that everyone knows their place and observes the tradition of lent.

Naturally, when the newcomers open a chocolate shop (which, as everybody knows, is just the sort of thing guaranteed to trigger hidden passions and unexpected emotions in the repressed villagers) the scene is set for a soft-focus, everything-will-turn-out-fine-in-the-end clash of cultures.

Chocolat is a beautifully-made but acutely predictable film where all too often, the charm it aspires to feels trite and somewhat forced. One cannot help but be amazed that this can be nominated for a Best Picture Oscar when something as fresh and sharp as *State And Main* is overlooked.

So, Chocaholics beware and come prepared with an emergency ration box. Just be sure to eat them very, very quietly. You never know where I might be sitting.

** 1/2

THE WATCHER (Cert 15/97min)

APOLOGIES to anyone expecting a comprehensive critical breakdown of the pros and cons of *The Watcher*, but I can't do it. Just shy of *Battlefield: Earth*,

average person might balk at casting him as a coldly devious serial-killer.

Maybe we've been spoiled by a rake of villains with above-average intelligence; Hannibal Lecter, Keyser Soze, Patrick "American Psycho" Bateman, Seven's John Doe... The Watcher, on the other hand, boasts a serial-killer who couldn't return an overdue library book without getting arrested for it. The only reason that he seems to be able to get away with garrotting young women for so long is that the authorities chasing him are even dumber than he is.

With the exception of James Spader, or course. Spader is like the "Anti-Keanu" in that he seems to quietly raise the IQ of any film he appears in. But even he can't fight off the combination of Keanu "Whoa!" Reeves, pointlessly-flashy camera angles that leave you with a throbbing headache and a script with plot-holes you could sail the Sea-Cat ferry through.

The only thing about *The Watcher* that may raise your spirit is the hopelessly misleading trailer, billing it as "The scariest film you'll see this year."

Not even close. Get a six-pack of beer and some friends around. Turn off the lights and stick *Battlefield: Earth* in the VCR. Take a look at John Travolta's performance. Now ask yourselves: 'How much money did he get paid for this?' That is the scariest thing you'll see this year.

*



The Watcher is just, well... bad



Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

This is the month to widen your horizons.

Recently you have felt that your life is quite unfulfilling and that there is something more you could be doing. If this is the case, try organising a short trip to a place that's always interested you or arrange a big night out with your friends. Afterwards, you will feel refreshed and ready once again to tackle the mundane. Remember life is too precious to waste.

Destiny is a table by the window.



Taurus (Apr 21 - May 20)

A small windfall mid-month will be a welcome

reward for your help with a family matter. You have been working so hard lately it is about time you treated yourself. Be good to yourself for once and spend this cash on something you have always wanted. A minor blip in a close relationship will be resolved by the end of the month, much to your relief.

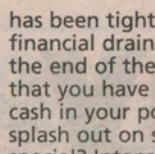
Destiny is an unopened box.



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

You have a great head for remembering names, so use

this to your advantage this month. A little sweet talking will go a long way and you may be in line for an important promotion. Cash



Cancer (June 22 - July 23)

By performing a good deed in secret for someone special in your

life could have unintended rewards for you. Close relationships have been under a lot of pressure lately. By performing a small kindness, you will help ease this tense situation. Personal disappointments have been getting you down lately. Stop obsessing over the past. Future happiness can be yours if you allow yourself to move on. Destiny begins with the letter W.



Leo (July 24 - Aug 24)

Love is definitely in the air for Leos this month. A

good friend of yours has become particularly close and has confided in you a lot lately. Have you thought of pursuing this any further? If so, now is the time to do it as Venus shines brightly in your house of love affairs. By taking the initiative you may be pleasantly surprised with the results.

Destiny is foreign correspondence.

HOROSCOPE

Our DIT astrologer predicts what the month ahead holds in store for students everywhere



Virgo (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

This is a particularly busy time for you. Friends

are likely to invite you to a fun gathering mid-month, and tempting as it may seem, you are overloaded with work.

The stars advise taking care of as much of your work responsibilities as possible before letting your hair down. In a few weeks there will be plenty of time to party but until then, buckle down. You will be glad you did so in the long run.

Destiny is a legal document.



Libra (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

As Saturn moves into your seventh house of

affairs, work becomes the

focal point this month. Recently, you have been feeling as if you have been taken for granted.

Now is the time to ask for that raise. You have to stop associating money with greed.

The fact is, you deserve it and as long as you accept bad pay, nothing will change.

Destiny is a phonecall from abroad.



Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Spend time on yourself this month. The recent chaos at home has

led you to neglect the most important person in your life. You!

Go out and buy yourself a new outfit, have your nails done, whatever.

But most importantly spend some quiet time alone.

A moment or two of peace

gives you time to reflect, making you a nicer, calmer person to be around.

Destiny begins with H.



Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 21)

You haven't been feeling so good about yourself lately.

Improving your well-being can be as simple as doing some volunteer work. Helping those less fortunate than yourself can be very rewarding and fulfilling.

It might just be the confidence boost you need.

And apart from making a valuable contribution to the world, you will also make a whole new group of friends.

Destiny is an old photograph.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

Your health is the focal point for this month.

You have let yourself go lately and now is the time to get in touch with your physical side and go out and get some exercise.

The longer you neglect your body, the harder it will be in the long run. Matters of the heart have always been causing you some grief recently.

Go to the gym and pound out your frustrations on the treadmill. You'll be amazed how great you will feel afterwards.

Destiny is a forgotten friend.



Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

This month could be a lucky time for

you. As Jupiter moves into your fifth house of career and finance, you may find yourself up for promotion or a very large raise.

All of a sudden, your work colleagues are recognising the enormous potential you have to offer.

Take advantage of this time and talk yourself up to the right people.

You may be surprised by the rewarding outcome at the end of the month.

Destiny is an exotic destination.



Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You have been feeling a little

overwhelmed by personal problems lately. Perhaps it is time you enlisted the help of your family or friends in solving them.

Forget about your pride for once and look for the support you need at the moment.

Afterall, that is what family and friends are there for, to help you in your time of need. You have been there for them often enough.

Destiny is a new property.



BE INDEPENDENT!

A jolly good **sport** every monday...

...on thursday its the **business**...

...on saturday, get into the **Weekend!**

Every day
the students paper!



Irish Independent

Ireland's National Quality Daily.

Student Price only 50p



Double whammy on black Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, February 7th was a black day for DIT GAA when both senior sides were unceremoniously knocked out of the two major tournaments of the third level calendar.

A lot of work and effort is put into these competitions and it is always a disappointment to exit at the first hurdle.

Fitzgibbon Cup exit

As preparations go, this year's bunch of hurlers gave it everything they could, playing a series of challenges against some of Leinster's top teams leading up to the cup.

So when they trotted out onto the pitch at Maynooth they were confident that they were in with a serious chance of victory.

For 25 minutes of the first half, our players asserted themselves excellently, holding Maynooth to a one-point lead.

Unfortunately, Maynooth registered three further points just before the break to get a

GAA Development Officer Des O'Donnell reflects on DIT's exits from both the Fitzgibbon and Sigerson Cups

major advantage at a crucial time in the game.

Despite a super goal from Galway's Colin Coen hammered the ball into the net to drag DIT back into the game.

Sadly, our team failed to build on that score and Maynooth eventually pulled away to win by 0-17 to 1-6. Despite valiant efforts of Eamon Curly, Willie Carmody, John Cullen, Colin Coen and Barry Lambert, Maynooth were deserving winners and possessed a number of able point-getters, which was illustrated in the final score.

The result was hard to take for DIT, but the message that sport should always transmit holds true - there is always another day and everyone involved in the team can be quite proud of their efforts in

this year's campaign.

We can all look to the future and build on what has been achieved to date.

Sigerson Cup humiliation

The second part of the black Wednesday double whammy administered to DIT came in the premier intervarsity football competition. In this case the dose was delivered by lowly Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick.

DIT seemed to be cruising into the next round of the Sigerson when they scored a point in injury time to go two points up. But a last minute penalty award by the referee K Walsh to MICE. The penalty was duly dispatched into the net and DIT's hopes for one more year of Sigerson



As preparations go, this year's bunch of hurlers gave it everything they could

qualification went with it. The fact that MICE subsequently capitulated to Athlone IT the following week by a score of 0-17 to 0-4 emphasises what a poor result this was for DIT.

The writing was on the wall for our football team, winning only one of their four league games and winning only one challenge game against Dundalk IT. They lost ties with UCD, TCD, Meath under-21's, St Patrick's Drumcondra and Dundalk IT. There were many factors which contributed to a humiliation like this but morale was not high, going into this game and the management was of

the view that a defeat was unacceptable and would lower the stock of DIT in HEC football.

There is no point in blaming the referee or the pitch or the training facilities as DIT teams who trained in the same facilities in the last 10 years or more have performed better than this. The fact that a college with such a small student base should automatically be at a significant disadvantage when meeting a college like DIT which has a huge student base in comparison.

The management of DIT football has not changed in quite a while and the level of performance has started to

slump. One wonders has the time come to look at this area and create an opportunity to obtain some fresh people with some significant experience, let's say at inter-county level, as either players or managers.

It is possible that fresh leadership could enjoy being about a change of attitude, raise morale, boost attendances at training and lead DIT footballers back on to the winning track.

Has the time come for a change or will DIT footballers have to suffer further humiliation under the present set-up? DIT football deserves better than this year's escapade.

Bolton Bears Pool Club

THIS year has been a great year for Bolton Bears Pool Club and a very busy one at that too.

Over the past few years this Club has grown from strength to strength with numbers doubling each year.

To-date the club has approximately 300 odd people constantly participating on a day to day basis.

Chairperson John Murray says "as a member of the club for the past six years I have always seen the potential within it. I am very proud of our club and have always tried to get every member to be involved with the running of the club. And the results so far have been proven."

This club has always survived on a very low funding from DIT central but this has not stopped the players from organising competitions and participating in outside events such as the inter-varsities.

Last year due to a low budget we were only able to send 2 teams consisting of ten players to Sligo to represent Bolton Street in the inter-varsities. Both teams played their hearts out with some great victories from the likes of the Howlin Brothers, Alan McDonnell, John

Murray and many more to mention. In all we managed to secure a semi-finalist position. This year however, the club intends to bring the top prize home to Bolton Street for the first time ever. Our Players are all geared up for the event which takes place in March '01.

The Club kicked off the year with a massive singles competition that ran smoothly with some great games and crack. Subscription for the year is only £2 contrary to Ray Nangle's statement that his club is the only "college club" to have a subscription fee. Also, O'm sure that we too are not the only clubs around to do so.

We also had a great night out following the competition in one of the local pubs with a lot of great prizes for all participants.

Our Christmas Singles Competition was also a great success with Andrew Faulkner coming out the overall victor. This competition showed us that we were well capable of taking home the Trophy for the Inter-varsities this year.

Rag week too turned out to be a winning week with the club raising a lot of money for both the Rape Crisis Centre and the Cancer Research Society. I'd like to

take this opportunity to congratulate all those who helped in making the week a great success.

We have many plans for the Club before the year is out. We also would like to participate in a Blackpool competition in England which would be great experience for all the players. O'm sure that the lads would not let us down.

Until we get the funding for such an event, we can only dream that our current funding will reach it's target before the it's too late to enter. While on the subject of representing our country abroad I would like to point out that Ray Nangle's Karting Club is not the only club to do so.

DIT Handball Club run by Padraig Gaffney among others, will also be doing us proud when they compete in the World Colligates Competition in Minneapolis, U.S. this month.

Finally I would like to say that new members are always welcome to join. We take great pride in our club and we would like to thank Bolton Street's Student Union for all their continuous help in facilitating our Club throughout the year.

Adrian Holden, Treasurer, Bolton Bears Pool Club

Sports Awards go ahead despite foot-and-mouth

By Dermot Keyes

THE Foot and Mouth scare looks set to grind the third level sporting year to a premature end. Despite this, the DIT Sports Awards will go ahead as planned on April 4 at the Hilton Hotel.

DIT Aungier Street Sports Officer Herbie McClelland told the DIT Independent "that most of the teams were there or thereabouts in finishing their fixtures for the year, so I think it's only right that we go ahead with the awards." RTE's horse racing analyst Tracy Piggot will be the guest speaker at the gala highlight of DIT's sporting year. Confirming that all sports have been cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth scare, McClelland said that mats will be placed outside the hotel on the night in question. Restrictions on all sporting fixtures nationwide is expected to be reinforced for at least 30 days after the Department of Agriculture stands down from its current Foot and Mouth alert.

The Intervarsity Cross Country Championships in Belfield, one of the highlights of the third level athletics year, which were to be run over the second weekend of this month, was called off. The World Cross-Country Championships in Leopardstown, where McClelland was to form part of the stewarding team for the races, look set for a switch to a continental venue as this paper went to press. The selection process for the World Student Games in Beijing this summer have also been hampered by the scare and it has not yet been established how the Irish team will now be picked. An introductory sailing course in Carlingford was cancelled, as were planned events for soccer, hockey,



Agriculture Minister Joe Walsh: the fate of the third level sporting year rests in the hands of his Department

mountaineering and canoeing. The National Swimming Intervarsity Championships and the continuation of the golf competitions look to be the only events that have survived the alert, according to DIT Sports Officer Niamh O'Callaghan. "The only sporting activity that has not yet been cancelled is the Inter-DIT four-ball golf league to be played during the month of March with the finals scheduled to take place in City West Golf Club on Thursday 5th April 2001," she said. "The comprehensive sports and recreational activities timetable organised by each of the individual college sites will continue to operate as usual," she added.

In what has been an unprecedented incident for this generation of students, it will be interesting to see what makes the headlines in next month's edition of the DIT 'Indo' as there might not be anything to report!

Sport in Brief

Compiled by Dermot Keyes

Soccer

DIT reached the final of the prestigious Collingwood Cup final only to be beaten by the University of Ulster Jordanstown by three goals to nil in the decider. Michael Whelan's charges came through the rounds, beating DCU 3-1 in the opening tie, University of Limerick on penalties after a 1-1 draw and scored a superb 3-0 win over Trinity College in the semi-final. Unfortunately, UUU proved a little too good for DIT in the final. Despite several efforts by this paper, team manager Michael Whelan was unavailable for comment on the team's superb achievement in reaching the final.

Cathal Brugha Street manager Sean O'Gorman is pleased with his team's efforts this term, but the Foot and Mouth scare looks set to bring their season to a premature end. A 2-0 win over Mountjoy Square, thanks to goals from Conor Smith and Dave Smith, who combined for both goals. A foul tempered tie at Clonsaugh was nonetheless testament of the good form that CBS have displayed throughout the season.

Ladies Football

Chairperson Karen Ward and coach Pat Byrne have put in sterling service this season in getting their club off the ground. The team competed in the Harney Cup without success and preparations for the O'Connor Cup were well underway until a combination of Spring snow and the Foot and Mouth scare put pay to their tie against St Mary's in Belfast. New players should contact Karen Ward at the Students Union shop at Mountjoy Square or Des O'Donnell at 30 Upper Pembroke Street.

Indoor football league set to kick off

THE Aggressive Pissers, The Roody Poo Crew, The Mighty Mighty Bostoons and The Dimbos Lunchbox. These bizarre team-names can mean only one thing. Yes folks, it's that time of year again where all the budding Beckhams and Henry hopefuls come out of the woodwork and step into the arena that is, the Aungier St Indoor Football League.

The season officially kicked off, for its sixth

consecutive year, on Monday, 5th March. The 'Pete & Al's Indoor Football League', as it is commonly referred to, was originally set up by two Business Studies students, Alan Coleman and Peter Durning.

From these humble beginnings the League has grown in stature and is now recognised as one of the largest and most active clubs in the DIT.

This is reflected in the high level of sponsorship from companies such as Red Bull, Guinness and Amstel.

The season lasts eight to nine weeks and matches take place in the YMCA on Aungier St. Participation levels are high, with twenty teams, comprising first, second, third and fourth year students, all competing for the top spot, and the small matter of the £300 prize money for the winning team.

At least twelve matches are played per week and each year, new and enthusiastic teams join in the competition to square up to the more established teams.

The first four seasons were dominated by indoor football's answer to Man Utd. The Dimbos Lunchbox, took all the silverware and swept the floor with all who opposed them.

However, their reign of terror was dramatically put to a halt last season, when Eat The Lee (don't ask) snatched the title from their grasp, in a closely contested final.

However, The Dimbos



The motley crew get some beers in after indoor victory.

contend that the absence of influential team captain, Dave Barry can account for their uncharacteristic lack of success last year (excuses excuses).

With The Dimbos seeking to regain their supremacy and the new teams trying to prove their worth, the season is shaping up nicely. So who will it be? Can Eat The Lee

regain their title or will one of the newcomers take the league by storm and surprise us all. Or perhaps the trophy will leave the country with one of the Erasmus teams.

But (altogether now, in your best possible David O'Leary accent) at the end of the day, as I say, it's a game of two halves, and only time will tell.



Soccer wouldn't be soccer without some drinking from the trophy

Camp COUNSELORS
USA

**APPLY NOW
FOR 2001**

Now recruiting anyone aged 18 - 30 for an unforgettable summer of work and travel in the USA. We are looking for keen, enthusiastic, outgoing people with an interest in working around children in the outdoors.

CALL NOW!!!

For Just £245

Guaranteed camp placement, return flights, comprehensive insurance, J-1 Visa, 24 hour support, "THE BEST SUMMER OF YOUR LIFE" ...what are you waiting for???

Contact - 41 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2

Tel - (01) 679 3735 NI - 028 9024 1177 Email - ireland@campcounselors.com

Internet - www.campcounselors.com



WORK EXPERIENCE USA is accepting applications for the J-1 Visa program NOW! Availability on flights to NYC, Chicago & L.A. in May & early June!

Call for a free Info Pack:

01 679 3735

41 Wellington Quay, D2

ireland@workexperienceusa.com

www.workexperienceusa.com

Work EXPERIENCE
USA



Planet Murphy & The Palace Nightclub, Camden St. Open 7 nights 'til late. Come early.